

For Release: Thursday, December 03, 2015

15-2311-BOS

NEW ENGLAND INFORMATION OFFICE: Boston, Mass.

Technical information: (617) 565-2327 • BLSInfoBoston@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/new-england

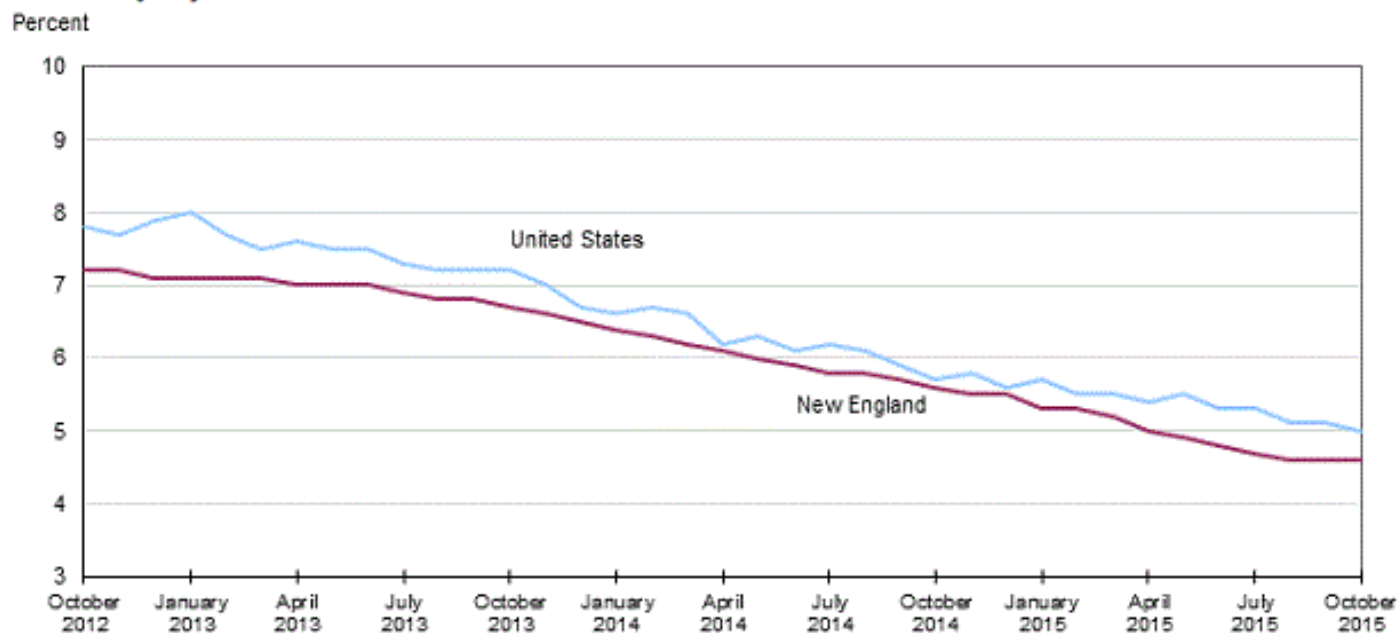
Media contact: (617) 565-2326 • BLSMediaBoston@bls.gov

New England and State Unemployment — October 2015

The New England unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.6 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that New England's jobless rate declined from a year ago when it was 5.6 percent. The national jobless rate was essentially unchanged from September at 5.0 percent and was 0.7 percentage point lower than in October 2014. (See [chart 1](#).)

New England is 1 of 9 geographic divisions nationwide. Among the nine geographic divisions, the East South Central and Pacific had the highest jobless rates in October, 5.6 percent each. The West North Central division had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.0 percent. All divisions except the Mountain had statistically significant rate declines from a year earlier. The largest of these decreases occurred in the Pacific (-1.3 percentage points).

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the United States and New England, October 2012 to October 2015, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In October, 3 of the 6 New England states had jobless rates that were significantly different from that of the nation. New Hampshire (3.3 percent), Vermont (3.7 percent), and Maine (4.3 percent) had significantly lower

unemployment rates and were among 20 states in the country to do so. The remaining New England states were among the 18 states that had unemployment rates not appreciably different from that of the nation. Twelve states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rates measurably higher than the national average.

Over the month, seven states nationwide had significant jobless rate decreases. The 6 New England states were among the 42 states and the District of Columbia that had unemployment rates that were not measurably different from those of a month earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes. Texas had the only significant over-the-month rate increase (+0.2 percentage point).

Over the year, five New England states had statistically significant unemployment rate changes, all decreases. Rhode Island had the largest decline (-1.7 percentage points), followed by Maine (-1.3 points), and Connecticut (-1.2 points). In fact, Rhode Island had the largest jobless rate decline among the 25 states and the District of Columbia that had significant rate decreases from October 2014. New Hampshire (-0.8 percentage point) and Vermont (-0.5 point) had smaller over-the-year declines. Massachusetts was among the 24 states that had unemployment rates not appreciably different from a year ago. The only significant over-the-year rate increase in the nation was in New Mexico (+0.6 percentage point).

The Regional and State Employment and Unemployment news release for November 2015 is scheduled to be released on Friday, December 18, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

Technical Note

This release presents civilian labor force and unemployment data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Estimates for the U.S. are obtained directly from the CPS, which is a sample survey of approximately 60,000 households nationwide that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the Census Bureau. The LAUS program produces data for subnational areas, including the nine geographic divisions (New England, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, East North Central, West North Central, Mountain, and Pacific) and the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The LAUS data for geographic divisions and states are model-based. The models for geographic divisions use inputs from the CPS only, while the models for the states and the District of Columbia use inputs from the CPS in conjunction with estimates of nonfarm payroll employment from the Current Employment Statistics survey and counts of unemployment insurance claimants from the state workforce agencies. Each month, not-seasonally-adjusted estimates for geographic divisions are controlled to the national totals from the CPS, and state estimates are then controlled to the estimates for their divisions. Data for all divisions, as well as the 50 states and the District of Columbia, are available in the Regional and State Employment and Unemployment release www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#news issued monthly by BLS, while national statistics are highlighted in the Employment Situation www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm#news.

Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other

data sources, and model re-estimation. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to or coincident with the release of January estimates.

Model-based error measures for seasonally adjusted data and for over-the-month and over-the-year changes are available online at www.bls.gov/lau/lastderr.htm. BLS uses a 90-percent confidence level in determining whether changes in LAUS unemployment rates are statistically significant. The average magnitude of the current year over-the-month change in a state unemployment rate that is required for statistical significance at the 90-percent confidence level is just over 0.2 percentage point; the average amount of the current over-the-year change in a state rate for significance is about 0.9 point. More details can be found on the website. Measures of nonsampling error are not available.

This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200, Federal Relay Services: (800)-877-8339.

Table 1. Labor force status for the United States, New England, and New England states, seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2015
United States ⁽¹⁾ ...													
Civilian labor force.....	156,243	156,402	156,129	157,180 ⁽²⁾	157,002	156,906	157,072	157,469	157,037	157,106	157,065	156,715	157,028
Employed.....	147,260	147,331	147,442	148,201 ⁽²⁾	148,297	148,331	148,523	148,795	148,739	148,840	149,036	148,800	149,120
Unemployed.....	8,983	9,071	8,688	8,979	8,705	8,575	8,549	8,674	8,299	8,266	8,029	7,915	7,908
Unemployment rate.....	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0
New England.....													
Civilian labor force.....	7,810.4	7,816.4	7,821.1	7,829.2	7,849.8	7,873.4	7,889.6	7,903.9	7,904.1	7,883.2	7,849.2	7,808.3	7,780.9
Employed.....	7,371.8	7,382.8	7,391.6	7,411.3	7,436.4	7,464.8	7,492.2	7,515.5	7,524.7	7,512.4	7,486.2	7,451.3	7,423.6
Unemployed.....	438.6	433.6	429.5	417.9	413.4	408.6	397.4	388.4	379.4	370.8	363.0	357.0	357.3
Unemployment rate.....	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6
Connecticut.....													(P)
Civilian labor force.....	1,893.3	1,896.5	1,899.4	1,904.5	1,909.9	1,915.8	1,920.6	1,921.7	1,918.1	1,910.8	1,903.4	1,899.1	1,895.9 ^(P)
Employed.....	1,773.6	1,776.8	1,779.5	1,784.2	1,788.0	1,794.0	1,800.6	1,806.6	1,809.2	1,807.1	1,803.3	1,800.5	1,798.9 ^(P)
Unemployed.....	119.7	119.7	119.9	120.2	121.9	121.9	120.0	115.1	108.9	103.7	100.1	98.6	97.0 ^(P)
Unemployment rate.....	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1 ^(P)
Maine.....													
Civilian labor force.....	695.3	694.4	693.7	692.3	690.6	689.7	689.2	691.0	692.9	692.1	689.2	685.4	681.7 ^(P)
Employed.....	656.7	656.1	655.7	656.3	656.2	656.6	657.1	658.9	660.1	660.2	658.1	655.2	652.6 ^(P)
Unemployed.....	38.7	38.3	38.0	36.1	34.4	33.1	32.1	32.2	32.8	32.0	31.1	30.2	29.1 ^(P)
Unemployment rate.....	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3 ^(P)
Massachusetts.....													(P)
Civilian labor force.....	3,578.2	3,582.8	3,586.6	3,591.1	3,607.9	3,623.9	3,634.3	3,640.2	3,634.8	3,614.6	3,591.7	3,569.6	3,560.9 ^(P)
Employed.....	3,382.1	3,389.3	3,395.2	3,409.4	3,430.5	3,448.8	3,464.9	3,471.5	3,465.7	3,444.6	3,424.0	3,406.5	3,396.9 ^(P)
Unemployed.....	196.0	193.5	191.4	181.7	177.3	175.1	169.4	168.7	169.0	170.0	167.7	163.1	164.0 ^(P)
Unemployment rate.....	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6 ^(P)
New Hampshire.....													
Civilian labor force.....	740.8	741.1	741.3	742.8	744.0	745.9	746.5	748.1	748.9	748.8	747.3	743.6	741.0 ^(P)
Employed.....	710.6	711.2	711.7	713.3	714.7	716.9	717.8	719.4	720.7	720.9	720.6	718.3	716.5 ^(P)
Unemployed.....	30.2	29.9	29.6	29.4	29.3	29.0	28.7	28.7	28.2	27.9	26.8	25.3	24.4 ^(P)
Unemployment rate.....	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.3 ^(P)
Rhode Island.....													
Civilian labor force.....	550.9	549.7	548.8	549.0	549.6	551.9	553.8	556.3	558.5	559.8	560.0	558.5	556.8 ^(P)
Employed.....	512.0	511.8	511.6	513.1	514.7	517.3	520.1	523.2	525.5	527.5	528.3	528.1	527.5 ^(P)
Unemployed.....	38.8	37.9	37.2	35.9	34.9	34.7	33.7	33.1	33.0	32.3	31.7	30.4	29.4 ^(P)
Unemployment rate.....	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.3 ^(P)
Vermont.....													
Civilian labor force.....	348.8	348.8	348.8	348.7	348.5	348.3	348.2	348.7	349.0	349.4	348.6	347.2	345.2 ^(P)

Table 1. Labor force status for the United States, New England, and New England states, seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands) - Continued

Area	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2015
Employed.....	334.3	334.3	334.3	334.6	334.7	335.0	335.6	336.2	336.6	337.0	336.2	334.5	(P) 332.4
Unemployed.....	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.2	13.7	13.2	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.5	12.7	(P) 12.8
Unemployment rate.....	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	(P) 3.7

⁽¹⁾ Data for the U.S. are obtained directly from the national Current Population Survey (CPS) and are not preliminary. Seasonally adjusted CPS data have been revised as a result of routine seasonal updates processed at the end of each calendar year.

⁽²⁾ Data affected by changes in population controls.

^(P) Preliminary

Table 2. Civilian labor force and unemployment by census region and division, seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	Civilian labor force				Unemployed							
	Oct 2014	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2015	Number				Percent of the labor force			
					Oct 2014	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2015	Oct 2014	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2015
Northeast.....	28,253.7	28,442.1	28,372.6	28,364.2	1,637.6	1,445.2	1,419.5	1,391.7	5.8	5.1	5.0	4.9
New England.....	7,810.4	7,849.2	7,808.3	7,780.9	438.6	363.0	357.0	357.3	5.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Middle Atlantic.....	20,443.3	20,592.9	20,564.3	20,583.3	1,199.0	1,082.2	1,062.5	1,034.4	5.9	5.3	5.2	5.0
South.....	57,058.0	57,154.6	57,084.6	57,133.8	3,276.8	2,923.5	2,895.7	2,906.5	5.7	5.1	5.1	5.1
South Atlantic.....	30,263.0	30,291.7	30,286.1	30,342.3	1,804.0	1,627.1	1,600.7	1,593.3	6.0	5.4	5.3	5.3
East South												
Central.....	8,344.3	8,467.7	8,433.6	8,423.8	541.7	485.2	479.0	470.2	6.5	5.7	5.7	5.6
West South												
Central.....	18,450.7	18,395.2	18,364.9	18,367.7	931.1	811.3	816.0	842.9	5.0	4.4	4.4	4.6
Midwest.....	34,508.4	34,452.7	34,439.3	34,503.9	1,878.1	1,598.4	1,562.4	1,563.8	5.4	4.6	4.5	4.5
East North												
Central.....	23,354.9	23,322.9	23,313.2	23,345.8	1,394.4	1,136.1	1,114.6	1,122.2	6.0	4.9	4.8	4.8
West North												
Central.....	11,153.5	11,129.8	11,126.1	11,158.1	483.7	462.2	447.9	441.6	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.0
West.....	36,673.2	36,985.0	36,932.4	36,916.3	2,376.0	2,090.3	2,051.0	2,016.2	6.5	5.7	5.6	5.5
Mountain.....	11,291.3	11,418.7	11,409.7	11,406.1	615.9	585.7	584.9	577.8	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.1
Pacific.....	25,381.8	25,566.3	25,522.7	25,510.2	1,760.1	1,504.6	1,466.0	1,438.5	6.9	5.9	5.7	5.6

Note: Census region estimates are derived by summing the Census division model-based estimates. Data refer to place of residence. Regions are defined as the four Census regions, comprised as follows: Northeast Region includes the New England Division - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; and the Middle Atlantic Division - New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. South Region includes the South Atlantic Division - Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia; East South Central Division - Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee; and West South Central Division - Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Midwest Region includes the East North Central - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin; and the West North Central Division - Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. West Region includes the Mountain Division - Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. Estimates for the current year are subject to revision early in the following calendar year.

Note: See footnotes at end of table.